

THURSDAY, MARCH, 4, 1875]

[CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 27th February, 1875.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

The *Marwar Gazette* of the 15th February alludes to a curious case of abduction in the Muttra district. It seems that a man took a conveyance to the house of a Brahman in a village called Salimpur, and informed him that he had been sent by a relation of his to take his daughter to a marriage. The Brahman at once complied with the request, and sent the girl laden with ornaments ; but although fourteen days have elapsed since, no clue can be obtained of the party.

The *Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab* of the 19th February, on the authority of a correspondent at Amritsar, reports the seduction of a girl 15 years of age by "a gentleman of the Telegraph Department." The editor considers that this person deserves severe punishment, not only for the crime he has committed, but also for the disgrace he has thus brought upon the British as an enlightened nation.

The *Punjabi Akhbar* of the 20th February, referring to the Police, says,—"It is said that no department of the Government service causes more distress and annoyance by acts

of oppression than this department. The object of Government in establishing it has been completely frustrated ; for instead of its being the great safeguard we had hoped it would be, it only adds to the weight of oppression from which we desired to be released, and how can it be otherwise when a low-bred person is permitted to disgrace the most respectable man in his official capacity ? It was fully expected that from the highest to the lowest employed in the force, only those of good character would have been employed ; but, on the contrary, it will be found that men of the lowest caste and character are in it, while the higher grades are occupied by men who once boasted the appointments of barkandazes and such like, who are always the companions of the lowest and most profligate people to be found. What can be expected from those who are notoriously bad ? Now we deplore the working of a very high court, and cannot help expressing regret at the results, *viz.*, the Deputy Commissioner of a certain place having occasion to punish a party of bad characters, resolved to send them to prison, but when the order went up to the Chief Court it was reversed. Now is it not a matter of regret that the good resolution of a police officer can be so easily set aside ?"

The above paper records a case of *sati* which is said to have occurred at Sikandarpur in the Azamgarh district. The widow of a very religious man sacrificed herself and child by setting fire to her bed, on which she had first placed a heap of combustible materials, &c.

Concerning the "negligence of the English," the same paper says,—“The English officers are not ever desirous of looking into the real condition of the people of this country. They live on from year to year, but pay no regard to the state of the Hindustanis, as though they had not been in India at all. There are very few Englishmen who possess even the desire to be of any use or benefit to the Hindustanis of the same place where they live. All they think of is the accumulation of

money and working out the term for their pensions." The editor quite agrees with the opinion expressed by the editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, and recommends that other English editors also bestir themselves and give sound advice.

The *Koh-i-Nur* of the same date records a case of murder at Ludhiana, the victim being a little girl, and the object being to possess her ornaments. The writer wishes to know why parents are not made responsible in such cases. That they should be so he firmly believes, and he considers it a matter of deep regret that, although the cry against this great evil has been long and loud, neither do parents pay any regard to it, nor does the Government adopt measures to arrest the great evil.

The *Atalik-i-Hind* of the same date, noticing the arrest of a police constable at Amritsar on a charge of theft, asks whether public security can be expected under guardians like these.

The *Hindu Prakash* of the same date offers a few hints regarding Government jails, in the hope that they may be favourably received :—

(1.) The writer is of opinion that criminals should be divided into three classes, each distinctly separate from the others, "because it is clear that when opportunity for free intercourse is given much evil results."

(2.) "The system of shaving the head and putting on jail uniform is degrading, and only tends to harden criminals. We think that those who are incarcerated for slight offences ought to be exempted from this disgrace and from all labour, but they might be carefully instructed in the arts and well advised; the result of such treatment might be good for them."

The same paper alludes to a dacoity in the house of one Chiranj Misr at Batala, Gurdaspur district, where ten men broke in, forced the women to supply oil for torches, and carried off valuables to the amount of Rs. 5,000. It is

added that a constable was at the time engaged in conversation with the owner of the house, and it is suspected that he is a party to the theft.

The *Nasir-ul-Akhbar* of the 9th February hears from Sagar that some evil spirit is going about the place, and has been causing considerable pain and destruction of life at night during the past month there. "The plan of proceeding is to scratch the faces of people. Some have been killed, many have been wounded, and on the 22nd of January a dâk peon was made away with, while another suffered similarly on the 29th.

The same paper of the 19th February, with reference to poorhouses in the Panjab, and the way in which they are managed, does not approve of their being in some instances made over to clergymen, together with the subscriptions and grants-in-aid, &c., as he thinks that these gentlemen show undue favour to those who take an interest in their preaching ; and moreover some beggars who receive alms and food may still be seen begging in the streets, and when interrogated on the subject they say,—“ Yes, the Government has certainly provided food for us at these institutions, but we do not care to accept it and be called “ kirani.” The writer considers that there are two disadvantages in this, much felt by the people generally, the first being the taunt conveyed in the word “ kirani,” and the second, the idea they possess that the clergymen only give to those who listen to them ; and this the writer says is true for the poorhouse at Jullunder. He therefore recommends that this privilege of distributing charity should be removed from the clergymen, and made over to some Hindu members of the municipality, in order that the liberality of Government may be equally dealt out to all. The writer also suggests that honorary magistrates should be called upon to pay visits to the working establishments, and find out what food is served out, keeping a daily journal of what is expended, and at the end of each

month all the expenses of these institutions be made known to the committees and to the editors of Native newspapers.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbar* of the 20th February tells a story of some mendicant who has arrived at Aligarh, who begs in the streets and drinks ardent spirits. He then seizes hold of dogs in the streets, dashes them on the ground and kills them; then drinks the blood and eats the tongues of the dead animals. Some people who saw him doing this on the public road gave him a sound thrashing, but even this has not turned him from his evil ways.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 23rd February, writing concerning Muzaffarpur, says that the division of this ilaka has caused the vakils of the courts to petition Government on the part of the people, pointing out that the courts of the two zilas, east and west, should still remain as they are now at Muzaffarpur, otherwise there will be great confusion and inconvenience in having to engage separate vakils in each court. The writer considers the petition out of place; for when the Government desires to establish courts for the good of the people at different places, it seems absurd to cry out against the measure.

It is said that the record-keeper of the Chief Commissioner's Court, Nagpur, has been suddenly dismissed. The reason given for this is that he committed himself by getting up a darbar; he himself personating the Chief Commissioner, and receiving the usual nazranas on the occasion. He is now in confinement and will be tried by the High Court, Madras.

From Jabalpur it is stated that considerable difficulty exists in changing currency notes, and that even discount is charged. The Postmaster of Jabalpur declined to receive a note in payment of postage. The editor considers that this is not as it should be, in an institution emanating from the Government itself. It is a great thing for the mahajans, no

doubt, to buy up notes at a discount. The Government ought at once to look to this, and do something to rectify the evil.

The *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the 19th February learns from a place called Haldwani that the clergyman there has established a strange custom, *viz.*, at the hour of divine service he has it proclaimed that he is going to preach, and invites all who are desirous of hearing him to do so at church. "This," adds the editor, "brings many people to listen to him."

The same paper learns from Aligarh that the fakir who has been amusing himself by killing and eating dogs, &c., as before alluded to, has committed himself by murdering a boy between two and three years of age and eating him. The cannibal has been arrested at last.

The *Dabdaba-i-Sikandari* of the 22nd February complains that although it has been ruled that an inspector of police should rank with a tahsildar, the order appears to be a dead-letter, as no inspector is allowed a seat in presence of a magistrate, while a tahsildar possesses that privilege. The writer hopes that this question may be taken up and duly considered.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 18th February, in an article on general subjects, deplores the want of consistency in native editors, inasmuch as although they make much of matters of a trifling nature, they often allow those of a more weighty and serious character to pass unnoticed. This the writer partly attributes to dread of the consequences in case the newswriters cannot substantiate all they publish, and he thinks that Government should pass some definite order on the subject. As an instance of what he means, the writer declares that about a month ago he was looking out of his window and saw two men standing in the street below. One said, addressing the other, "A bearer in the service of a person of rank was found intriguing with his master's daughter, and poisoned and thrown out into the streets to die. The police made much money out of the case, and nothing was

done." The other man enquired—"When did this happen?" His informant replied,—"I heard it on the banks of the Ganges; but when it took place I cannot tell." The editor adds—"If you were to ask me why I did not endeavour to find out, the very fact of the man saying that he had only heard it was sufficient to put me off my purpose; for when such things take place, and any of my people happen to be present, they are driven away by the police constables. Generally speaking, you will find that the command of money enables a man to do what he likes with the police. The former Magistrate used to lead people into a confession and find out the true state of things, but that time is gone by, and now money has the power to effect anything."

The *Karnama* of the 24th February publishes some remarks upon the small-mindedness of Government in imposing a tax upon the traders in fireworks. The writer says,— "The Government seeing that the wealthy people of Hindustan expend thousands of rupees in fireworks, took immediate advantage of the circumstance, and imposed an annual tax of Rs. 4 on the trade, and one of Re. 1 on those who sold fireworks. Doubtless this order will be in force ere long."

A serious burglary is noticed as having occurred at Koil (Aligarh). The shop of a cloth merchant was broken open and goods and cash removed. There were two men in the shop at that time, and the police station is close enough, still no one saw what was going on.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the same date remarks that in Hindustan one of the prevailing evils is that when any official is under orders for a change of station, the people there at once apply for a further continuance of his official services, and the wish is at once acceded to. The Government ought to be fully aware that if this kind of thing is permitted all chance of change will be at once at an end, and the authorities losing sight of their duty will, as a

rule, only care to please the people. The writer enquires whether Government does not know who is the proper man for a district.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Akmal-ul-Akbar* of the 20th February hears from Baroda that Uttam Chand, Jauhari, offered to have a pair of armlets made of diamonds valued at three and a half lakhs of rupees. The Jauhari has been arrested.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 23rd February says that the news of the Resident's advent at Tonk has caused no little excitement and fear among the dancing girls, who have made the Muharram a pretext for leaving the place, and fled to different parts of the country.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 23rd February publishes some correspondence concerning the best mode of settling affairs at Baroda. The writer is of opinion that if Malhar Rao is found guilty of an attempt to poison the late Resident, he ought to be kept under surveillance, and a suitable allowance be made him to enable him to reside at some other station, while proper arrangements should be made for acknowledging the rightful heir, a good and efficient council being selected to direct the affairs of the state. If the Maharaja be found innocent of the charges against him, he should be at once reinstated upon two conditions :—(1) That he should form a council, the members of which be approved by Government. (2) That on his again committing himself, his country and state should be taken over by the British Government, and an allowance from it only be made to him. The writer is of opinion that this would keep the Maharaja in check, and satisfy all who have the welfare of Baroda and the country at heart, as it is the earnest desire of Government that all should work with justice and equity.

COMMERCIAL.

(Railways.)

The *Dabdaba-i-Sikandari* of the 22nd February records a railway accident as having occurred near the railway

station, Agra, through the misconduct of an engine-driver on the Jaipur line. The man was, it is said, intoxicated. Several people were injured more or less severely, and a number of carriages smashed. The editor, while acknowledging the superiority of speed, and other great advantages of railway travelling over all others, thinks the dangers attendant likely to induce many people to forego the benefits of the rail. At the same time he is of opinion that if the Government of India would look into this and pass a strict order, it might be in a great measure remedied.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Patiala Akhbar* of the 22nd February publishes a lengthy article on educational matters, and questions the right or policy of bestowing more care and attention on city schools than on country schools. The writer says that the city schools have due regard paid not only to the means of instruction, but to the comforts of pupils, whereas those in the country suffer much for want of good and efficient teachers, while comforts are almost entirely denied them. The writer considers this unfair, as the zemindars defray the expenses of the country schools, and the Government ought to see that their schools are well provided in every respect. He goes on to say,—“We are of opinion that the claims of the agriculturists ought to be more regarded by Government than they are at present; just now the zemindars are ignorant of their rights, but when they are more enlightened they will discover the injustice they have suffered at the hands of the Government upon which they so much rely, and this will tend to make them discontented. In conclusion we would remark upon the utter uselessness of teaching the children of agriculturists geography and history, but we would strongly recommend their being taught all the branches of agriculture, which must be of use to them in their future course of life. We would also recommend the Penal Code as an instructive addition to the educational course in country schools, for the knowledge of it would teach

the pupil the penalty of committing acts which might expose him to punishment, and furthermore it would prepare him to take up police work, should he choose to do so. We would ask Government to look to this."

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report :—

(101)

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date of Receipt.
1	<i>Marwar Gazette,</i>	...	Jodhpur,	1875.	1875.
2	<i>Benares Akhbar,</i>	...	Benares,	Feb.	22nd
3	<i>Akhbar-i-Alam,</i>	...	Meerut,	18th	22nd
4	<i>Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjah,</i>	...	Lahore,	18th	22nd
5	<i>Panjabi Akhbar,</i>	...	Ditto,	19th	22nd
6	<i>Koh-i-Nur,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
7	<i>Atalik-i-Hind,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
8	<i>Hindu Prakash,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
9	<i>Urdu Delhi Gazette,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
10	<i>Nur-ul-Anvar,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
11	<i>Muir Gazette,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
12	<i>Meerut Gazette,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
13	<i>Sadarsha,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
14	<i>Nasir-ul-Akhbar,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
15	<i>Nasir-ul-Islam,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
16	<i>Nasim-i-Jaunpur,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
17	<i>Nasir-ul-Akhbar,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
18	<i>Nasir-ul-Islam,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
19	<i>Rohilkhand Akhbar,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	22nd
20	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbar,</i>	...	Ditto,	21st	23rd
21	<i>Naiyir-i-Akbar,</i>	...	Ditto,	11th	24th
22	<i>Rajputana Social Science Congress Gazette.</i>	...	Ditto,	19th	24th
23	<i>Lauh-i-Mahsuz,</i>	...	Ditto,	19th	24th
24	<i>Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Hind,</i>	...	Ditto,	20th	24th
25	<i>Oudh Akhbar,</i>	...	Ditto,	"	24th
26	<i>Roznamcha,</i>	...	Ditto,	21st	24th
27	<i>Ditto,</i>	...	Ditto,	22nd	25th

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date.	Date of Receipt.
28	Roznamcha,	...	Lucknow,	Daily,	23rd	25th
29	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	25th	25th
30	Agra Akhbar,	...	Agra,	Tri-monthly, ...	"	25th
31	Gwalior Gazette,	...	Gwalior,	Weekly,	20th	25th
32	Mukibb-i-Hind,	...	Meerut,	Ditto,	21st	25th
33	Patiala Akhbar,	...	Patiala,	Ditto,	3rd week	25th
34	Shola-i-Tur,	...	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	22nd	25th
35	Roznamcha,	...	Lucknow,	Daily,	23rd	25th
36	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	23rd	25th
37	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	24th	26th
38	Naiyir-i-Akbar,	...	Bijnor,	Weekly,	25th	26th
39	Roznamcha,	...	Lucknow,	Daily,	26th	26th
40	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	27th	26th
41	Akhyaar-ul-Akhbar,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	28th	26th
42	Dabdaa-i-Sikandri,	...	Rampur,	Weekly,	29th	26th
43	Maila-i-Nur,	...	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	30th	26th
44	Naf-ul-Azim,	...	Lahore,	Ditto,	16th	26th
45	Lawrence Gazette,	...	Meerut,	Ditto,	22nd	26th
46	Jalwa-i-Tur,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	23rd	26th
47	Karnama,	...	Lucknow,	Ditto,	23rd	26th
48	Rhair Khwah-i-Oudh,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	24th	26th
49	Vakil-i-Hindustan,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	24th	26th
50	Nur Afshan,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	25th	26th
51	Sirachey Gazette,	...	Moradabad,	Ditto,	25th	26th
52	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	2nd	27th
53	Khurshid-i-Jahantab,	...	Agra,	Bi-monthly,	9th	27th
54	Maksud-ul-Akhbar,	...	Gurgaon,	Weekly,	16th	27th
55	Vritt Dhara,	...	Dhar,	Ditto,	3rd week	27th
56	Marathi,	...	Marathi,	Bi-monthly,	22nd	27th

56	<i>Nasim-i-Jaunpur,</i>	...	...	Urdu, Ditto, Ditto, Ditto,	...	Ditto, Ditto, Ditto, Bi-weekly,	...	23rd 24th 24th 24th	" " " "	27th 27th 27th 27th
57	<i>Akhbar-i-Am,</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	23rd 24th 24th 24th	" " " "	27th 27th 27th 27th
58	<i>Rijah-i-Am,</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	23rd 24th 24th 24th	" " " "	27th 27th 27th 27th
59	<i>Rohilkhand Akhbar,</i>	23rd 24th 24th 24th	" " " "	27th 27th 27th 27th

DELHI :
The 3rd March, 1875. }

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